

B. REMARKS

1. Drawing Corrections – Enclosed are drawing corrections to correct incorrect numbers and to remove . No new matter is incorporated in these corrections.

2. Replacement Section of the Specification – The specification has been edited to correct several typographical errors. Therefore, a replacement “Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment” section of the specification has been provided. No new matter is incorporated in this replacement.

3. Claim Objections

a. The Examiner: The Examiner objects to claims 2-5 and 7. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

The preambles of all the dependent claims need to be the same as the claim from which it depends. Therefore, claims 2-5 are objected to.

Claim 7 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 7, line 12: “whether or nor” should be –whether or not--.

Claim 7, line 14: “seleccting” should be –selecting--.

b. Response: Claims 2-5 and 7 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the Examiner’s objections.

4. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

a. The Examiner: The Examiner rejects claims 7-10 under §112, 2nd ¶. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

Claims 7-10 are rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. The use of the letters “c” and “r” in the claims is not clear.

b. Response: Claims 7, 8, and 10 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection. Claim 9 does use the terms "c" or "r", and therefore need not be amended.

5. Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

a. The Examiner: The Examiner rejects claims 1-10 under §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeStefano (US Pat. No. 6,075,531) in view of Clark, et al. ("Clark", US Pat. No. 5,995,101). Specifically, the Examiner stated:

Per claim 1, DeStefano teaches a programmable apparatus for displaying secondary content, comprising: a computer; a software program for displaying a spotlight cursor having a circumference (fig. 11; col. 9, lines 14-22; col. 4, lines 11-15), but does not specifically show the computer being directed to display secondary content when said secondary content is covered by a point on said circumference. However, Clark teaches the computer being directed to display secondary content when an area of interest is pointed by a cursor (fig. 1, col. 1, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include displaying a secondary content of a control area as taught by Clark in the invention of Stefano because it provides users a convenient way to display secondary information what a control area is within a proximity range of a pointer. Thus, a user can view secondary information of multiple control areas at the same time without the need to move from one control area to another in a graphical user interface.

Per claim 2, DeStefano teaches the circumference of claim 1 wherein said circumference is visible as a solid line or a broken line or not visible (fig. 11; col. 8, lines 16-26).

Per claim 3, DeStefano teaches the spotlight cursor of claim 1 wherein said secondary content is one of the following: gradual, all or zone (col. 8, lines 43-49).

Per claim 4, DeStefano teaches the spotlight cursor of claim 1 wherein the light within the circumference is of selectable and variable intensity (col. 8, lines 16-26).

Per claim 5, DeStefano teaches the spotlight cursor of claim 1 wherein the area inside the circumference is a pre-selectable color (col. 8, lines 16-26).

Per claim 6, DeStefano teaches a computer readable memory for causing a computer having a cursor to display secondary content comprising: a computer readable storage medium; a program stored in said storage medium (FIGS. 1 and 2); the storage medium so configured by said program, causes the computer to display a spotlight cursor having a radius, a circumference, and a center located at the forward most point of the cursor (fig. 11; col. 9, lines 15-23), but does not teach responsive to coincidence of coordinates on said circumference and said

secondary content, said secondary content is displayed. However, Clark teaches displaying a secondary content when an area of interest is pointed by a cursor (fig. 1, col. 1, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include displaying a secondary content of a control area as taught by Clark in the invention of DeStefano because it provides users a convenient way to display secondary information when a control area is within a proximity range of a pointer. Thus a user can view secondary information of multiple control areas at the same time without the need to move from one control area to another in a graphical user interface.

Per claim 7, DeStefano teaches a computer implemented process to accomplish display of secondary content upon activation by a spotlight cursor comprising: using a first program in the memory of a computer, performing the following steps (figs 1 and 2); determining whether or not "r" has been selected; obtaining the coordinates of the cursor; calculating the location of "c"; determining whether "c" has covered a secondary content (col. 8, lines 16-26; col. 8, lines 35-45; col. 9, lines 14-23); using a second program in the memory of a computer, performing the following steps (figs 1 and 2); displaying a menu (col. 7, lines 11-21); selecting "r" selecting intensity; selecting color for area inside the circumference; selecting color of "c"; selecting configuration of "c" (col. 9, lines 14-23; col. 8, lines 35-45). DeStefano does not specifically teach determining whether or not secondary contents are to be displayed and causing a secondary content to be displayed. However, Clark teaches displaying a secondary content when an area of interest is pointed by a cursor (fig. 1, col. 1, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include displaying a secondary content of a control area as taught by Clark in the invention of DeStefano because it provides users a convenient way to display secondary information when a control area is within a proximity range of a pointer. Thus a user can view secondary information of multiple control areas at the same time without the need to move from one control area to another in a graphical user interface.

Per claim 8, DeStefano teaches a method for creating a spotlight cursor for causing secondary content to be revealed comprising: obtaining the coordinates of the cursor; calculating the location of "c"; determining whether "c" has covered an area (col. 9, lines 14-23; col. 8, lines 16-26). DeStefano does not specifically teach responsive to a determination the "c" has covered a secondary content, causing a secondary content to be displayed. However, Clark teaches displaying a secondary content when an area of interest is pointed by a cursor (fig. 1, col. 1, lines 46-50). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include displaying a secondary content of a control area as taught by Clark in the invention of DeStefano because it provides users a convenient way to display secondary information when a control area is within a proximity range of a pointer. Thus a user can view secondary information of multiple control areas at the same time without the need to move form one control area to another in a graphical user interface.

Per claim 9, DeStefano teaches the method of claim 8 further comprising the step of determining whether or not the user has selected the spotlight cursor (col. 7, lines 11-21).

Per claim 10, DeStefano teaches the method of claim 8 further comprising the step of determining whether or not “r” has been selected (col. 7, lines 11-21; col. 9, lines 14-21).

b. Response:

Applicant submits that pursuant to 35 USC §103(c) and MPEP 706.02(l)(3), the DeStefano reference cannot be used for an obviousness rejection under §103. Both the DeStefano patent and the present application were assignable to the same organization, the International Business Machines Corporation of Armonk, New York, at the time of the inventions were made. Therefore, the Examiner cannot rely on the DeStefano patent for an obviousness rejection. Because the DeStefano is improper prior art for an obviousness rejection, the applicant submits that claims 1-10 are in a condition for allowance.

6. New Claims – New claims 11-20 have been added to further clarify the invention.

C. AMENDMENTS WITH MARKUP SHOWING CHANGES

In the Specification

Figure 1 depicts a pictorial representation of a distributed data processing system in which the present invention may be implemented and is intended as an example, and not as an architectural limitation, for the processes of the present invention. Distributed data processing system **100** is a network of computers which contains a network **102**, which is the medium used to provide communications links between various devices and computers connected together within distributed data processing system **100**. Network **102** may include permanent connections, such as wire or fiber optic cables, or temporary connections made through telephone connections[.], personal computers, or network computers. Distributed data processing system **100** may include additional servers, clients, and other devices not shown. In the depicted example, distributed data processing system **100** is the Internet with network **102** representing a worldwide collection of networks and gateways that use the TCP/IP suite of protocols to communicate with one another. Computers **104, 106, 108, 110, and 112 are all connected to network **102**.** Distributed data processing system **100** may also be implemented as a number of different types of networks, such as for example, an intranet, a local area network (LAN), or a wide area network (WAN).

Figure 2 depicts computer **200**. Although the depicted embodiment involves a personal computer, a preferred embodiment of the present invention may be implemented in other types of data processing systems. An exemplary hardware arrangement for computer **200** follows. Keyboard **222** and display **223** are connected to system bus **210**. Read only memory (ROM) **230** contains, typically, boot strap routines and a Basic Input/Output System (BIOS) utilized to initialize Central Processing Unit (CPU) **220** at start up. Random Access Memory (RAM) **240**

represents the main memory utilized for processing data. Drive controller 250 interfaces one or more disk type drives such as floppy disk drive 252, CD ROM 254 and hard disk drive 256. The number and type of drives utilized with a particular system will vary depending upon user requirements. A network interface 260 permits communications to be sent to and received from a network. Communications port 270 may be utilized for a dial up connection to one or more networks 280 while network interface 260 is a dedicated interface to a particular network. Programs for controlling the apparatus shown in Fig. 2 are typically stored on a disk drive and then loaded into RAM for execution during the start-up of the computer.

Figure 3 depicts the appearance of spotlight cursor 320. Spotlight cursor 320 has light 314, cursor [310] 311 and “c” 330. Cursor [310] 311 has tip 312. When referring to the coordinates of the cursor, the coordinates are those of tip 312. The tip is defined as the most forward point of the arrow displayed as the cursor. Persons skilled in the art are aware that any other point on the cursor could be chosen. Tip 312 defines the center of light 314. Light 314 is an area defined by a circle with circumference “c” 330. Light 314 has radius “r” (not shown) which is the straight line distance from tip 312 to “c” 330. Circumference Ac@ may appear as a sharp line in contrast to screen 310, a broken line in contrast to screen 310, a soft line in contrast to screen 310 or a fuzzy line blending with screen 310; however, no matter what appearance is given to the circumference, “c” will be defined mathematically in relation to radius “r” for the purpose of spotlight cursor 320. As shown in Fig. 3, spotlight cursor 320 has not caused any secondary content to appear on screen 310. Screen 310 has “Invert” checkbox 340, “Mirror” checkbox 350 and “Print File Information” checkbox 360.

Figure 4 depicts screen 310 with spotlight cursor 320 in a new position. The user has moved cursor [310] 311 to the new position. As cursor [310] 311 moved, light [320] 314, with

"c" 330 and center coinciding with tip 312 of cursor [310] 311, also moved. Secondary content information icons have appeared. Specifically "Invert" checkbox information icon 410 has appeared adjacent to "Invert" checkbox 340, "Mirror" checkbox information icon 420 has appeared adjacent to "Mirror" checkbox [320] 350, and "Print file information" checkbox information icon 430 has appeared adjacent to "Print file information" checkbox 360. As will be explained in further detail below the appearance of "Invert" checkbox information icon 410, "Mirror" checkbox information icon 420 and "Print file information" checkbox information icon 430 were caused by covering with "c" of spotlight cursor 320.

As used herein, "cover" means the act of a point on a secondary content being contacted by a point on "c" (where "c" is the circumference of a circle with radius "r") or being contained within the boundary of "c" or the coordinates of a point on "c" coinciding or equaling coordinates of a point on a secondary control, or a point on the boundary of a pre-defined zone containing one or more secondary contents. As used herein, secondary content means text, icons, images or controls. The introduction of secondary content in a GUI is done by the application programmer, taking advantage of the capability and availability of the spotlight cursor.

The method for using the spotlight cursor is as follows. The program obtains the x,y coordinates of the cursor. Next, the program applies the pre-selected radius to define a circle of circumference "c" with origin at x,y (tip 312 of Fig. 3) and radius "r". Next the program determines whether or not there are any secondary contents that are within the circumference of the circle. If there is a secondary content within circumference "c" then the secondary content will be activated and revealed in the primary layer of the GUI. If there are no secondary contents within the circumference "c" of the circle, then the program does nothing. The program

cycles each time the cursor moves (each time the cursor coordinates change). The program may be incorporated into an operating system, an application, or the program may be a plug-in for adaptation to a pre-existing program. Once the spotlight feature is active, no further action is needed on the user=s part

Figure 5 depicts the flow chart [for the process of] of program 500 for using spotlight cursor 320. Cursor movement activates program 500. First, [the] program 500 starts (510) and determines whether or not the cursor has moved (520). If the cursor has not moved, [the] program 500 goes to [stop] step 590. [Cursor movement activates program 500.] If the cursor has moved, [the] program 500 determines whether or not the spotlight cursor is on (530). If the spotlight cursor is not turned on, [the] program 500 will proceed to [stop 590] step 590. If the spotlight cursor is turned on, [the] program 500 will proceed to obtain the coordinates of the cursor (540). Next, [the] program 500 will use the cursor coordinates and "r" to calculate the location of "c", where "c" is the circumference of a circle of radius "r" (550). The value of "r" will be set by a configuration program, a default value, or a setting selected by the programmer of the application. Next, [the] program 500 will determine whether or not "c" has covered secondary content (560). [If "c" has covered secondary content, program 500 will cause the secondary content to be displayed (580).] If "c" has not covered a secondary content, [the] program 500 [hide] hides secondary content that has been previously displayed (570) and [go] goes to [stop] step 590. If "c" has covered a secondary content, the secondary content will be displayed (580). The secondary content will be displayed according to a method of appearance chosen in a configuration program. Program 500 then stops (590).

Figure 6 depicts a flow chart for [the] program 600 for configuration of the spotlight cursor. [the program] Program 600 begins (610) and displays a menu (612). First, [the] program

600 determines whether or not the secondary content [are] is to be displayed (614). If the user selects “no”, [the] program 600 will set “r” = 0 (616) and [go to] end (656). By setting “r” = 0, the spotlight cursor is rendered inoperable as there will be no “c” to cover secondary content. If secondary content [are] is to be displayed, [the] program 600 will determine whether or not “r” has been selected (618). If the user has not entered “r”, [the] program 600 will set “r” to a default value (620) and enter the default value for “r” (622). If the user has set “r”, program 600 will enter the value of “r” (622). [the] Program 600 will determine whether or not the user has set the intensity (624). If “r” is set to a minimum value “1”, then spotlight cursor 320 may not be visible at tip 312 of cursor [310] 311. However, spotlight cursor 320 will have a minimum “c” to effect display of secondary content. The intensity is the brightness of the circle of light [with] within circumference “c”. If the user has not set the intensity, [the] program 600 will select the default intensity (626) and [the] program 600 [will set the default value for the intensity (626) and program] will go to step [624] 628 and enter the value for the intensity (628). If the user sets the intensity, [the] program 600 will go to step 628 and enter the value for the intensity (628). Next, [the] program 600 will determine whether or not a color has been selected for the area inside “c” (630). If the user does not select a color for the area inside “c”, [the] program 600 will set the color to the default color (632) and [the] program 600 will go to step 634 and enter the color (634). If the user selects a color for the area inside “c”, [the] program 600 will go to step 634 and enter the color (634). Next, [the] program 600 will determine whether a color has been selected for “c” (636). If a color has not been selected for “c”, [the] program 600 will select the default color for “c” (638) and [the] program 600 will go to step 640 and enter the color (640). If the user selects a color for “c” [the] program 600 will go to step 640 and enter the color (640). Next, [the] program 600 will determine whether the configuration of “c” has been selected (642).

If the user has not selected a configuration for "c", [the] program 600 will set the configuration of "c" to the default configuration (644) and [the] program 600 will proceed to step 646 and enter the configuration (646). If the user has selected a configuration for "c", then [the] program 600 will enter the configuration for "c" (646). Next, [the] program 600 will determine the mode of appearance of secondary controls (648). If the user selected a mode of appearance for secondary controls, [the] program 600 will enter the mode of appearance of secondary controls (652). If the user has not selected a mode of appearance for secondary controls, then [the] program 600 will go to [a routine] program 700 shown on Figure 7 via connection 650.

Referring to Fig. 7, [the] program 700 continues from program 600 via connection 650 and will determine whether or not "gradual appearance" has been selected (710). If "gradual appearance" has been selected, [the] program 700 will set the appearance of secondary content for "gradual appearance" (720) and go to step 770 which will set the display to reveal appearance when covered by "c" (770). If the user has not selected "gradual" then [the] program 700 will determine whether or not the user has selected "all at once" (730). If the user has selected "all at once" then [the] program 700 will set appearance for "all at once" (740) and [the] program 700 will go to step [790] 770 which will set the computer to reveal secondary content when covered by "c" (770). Next, [the] program 700 will determine, whether or not the user has selected "zone" (750). If the user has selected "zone", then program 700 will set the appearance for the zone (760) and proceed to step 770. If the user has not selected "zone", then [the] program 700 will go to step [790] 770 which will cause the computer to reveal secondary content when covered by "c". Then [the routine] program 700 will return to [the main] program 600 via connector 654. Referring again to Fig. 6, [the] program 600 will then enter the secondary definition (652), and end (656).

Figure 8 depicts circumference “c” gradually revealing a secondary content item. Spotlight cursor 320 has circumference 330 and light 314. Secondary content item 850 has outer edge 860. When circumference 330 covers a point on outer edge 860, secondary content item 850 will start to be displayed. In figure 8, circumference 330 has passed over outer edge 860 and intersecting area 840 is revealed while remainder area [342] 842 is not displayed. As circumference 330 advances and [cover] covers additional points of secondary item 850 intersecting area 840 will grow and remainder area [342] 842 will decrease.

Figure 9 depicts circumference “c” revealing secondary content item 950 all at once. Spotlight cursor 320 has circumference 330 and light 314. Secondary content item 950 has outer edge 960. When circumference 330 covers a point on outer edge 960, secondary content item 950 will be fully displayed. There will be no intersecting area or remainder area. No matter what point on outer edge 960 of secondary content item 950 is covered by circumference 330, all of secondary content item 950 will be displayed.

Figure 10 depicts circumference “c” revealing a group of secondary content by covering a point in the predetermined zone. Spotlight cursor 320 has circumference 330 and light 314. Secondary content items 1050, 1052 and 1054 are positioned within pre-defined zone boundary 1060. When circumference 330 covers a point on zone boundary 1060, all three secondary content items 1050, 1052 and 1054 will appear fully displayed at the same time.

The advantages provided by the present invention should be apparent in light of the detailed description provided above. The description of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description, but is not limited to be exhaustive or limited to the invention in the form disclosed. Many modifications and variations will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art. The embodiment was chosen and described in order to best explain the

principles of the invention the practical application and to enable others of ordinary skill in the art to understand the invention for various embodiments with various modifications as are suited to the particular use contemplated.

In the Claims

CLAIMS

What is claimed[.]:

2. (Once Amended) The [circumference] programmable apparatus of claim 1 wherein said circumference is visible as a solid line or a broken line or not visible.

3. (Once Amended) The [secondary content] programmable apparatus of claim 1 wherein said secondary content is one of the following: gradual, all or zone.

4. (Once Amended) The [spotlight cursor] programmable apparatus of claim 1 wherein the light within the circumference is of selectable and variable intensity.

5. (Once Amended) The [spotlight cursor] programmable apparatus of claim 1 wherein the area inside the circumference is a pre-selectable color.

7. (Once Amended) A computer implemented process to accomplish display of secondary content upon activation by a spotlight cursor comprising:

using a first program in the memory of a computer, performing the following steps;

determining whether or not the user has selected the spotlight cursor;

determining whether or not [“r”] a radius has been selected;

obtaining the coordinates of the cursor;

calculating the location of [“c”] a circumference;
determining whether [“c”] the circumference has covered a secondary content;
causing a secondary content to be displayed;
using a second program in the memory of a computer, performing the following steps[;]:
displaying a menu;
determining whether or [nor] not secondary contents are to be displayed;
selecting [“r”] the radius;
[selecctng] selecting intensity;
selecting color for area inside the circumference;
selecting color of [“c”] the circumference;
selecting configuration of [“c”] the circumference; and
determining the definition of secondary content.

8. (Once Amended) A method for creating a spotlight cursor for causing secondary content to be revealed comprising[;]
obtaining the coordinates of the cursor;
calculating the location of [“c”] a circumference;
determining whether [“c”] the circumference has covered a secondary content; and
responsive to a determination that [“c”] the circumference has covered a secondary content, causing a secondary content to be displayed[;].

10. (Once Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of determining whether or not [“r”] the radius has been selected.

11. (New Claim) A method comprising:

defining an peripheral area around a cursor; and

displaying a secondary content associated with an item upon a determination that the peripheral area intersects the item.

12. (New Claim) The method of claim 11 wherein the peripheral area is a circle.

13. (New Claim) The method of claim 11 wherein the intersection occurs on a graphical user interface.

14. (New Claim) The method of claim 11 wherein the cursor is a pointer.

15. (New Claim) The method of claim 11 wherein the secondary content is displayed without the cursor intersecting the item.

16. (New Claim) A program product comprising:

a computer readable medium;

wherein the computer usable medium comprises instructions comprising:

instructions for defining an peripheral area around a cursor; and

instructions for displaying a secondary content associated with an item upon a determination that the peripheral area intersects the item.

17. (New Claim) The program product of claim 16 wherein the peripheral area is a circle.

18. (New Claim) The program product of claim 16 wherein the intersection occurs on a graphical user interface.

19. (New Claim) The program product of claim 16 wherein the cursor is a pointer.

20. (New Claim) The program product of claim 16 wherein the secondary content is displayed without the cursor intersecting the item.

Respectfully submitted,

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